

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, September 9, 1837, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, September 9, 1837.

*My Dear General.* You will have seen from the papers, that the Bank influence has again prevailed against me in the House of Reps. Our good friends Rives and Talmadge were seized with the whim, that by throwing themselves on the State Banks they might bring to their standard, all the paper loving people in the United States, All the merchants, speculators and trading politicians, and that by clubbing their interests in the two great States of New York and Virginia, they would be able to give the law to Congress and the Administration. With this design they have been at work during the Summer with their delegations, and being able to draw off about seven men each of one side in their respective states, with here and there a speculator in others, they got together twenty men who resolved to establish a press here, to favor their objects, by joining with the opposition. Gales and Seaton, and Thos. Allen, I presume, form but one firm, though they have different signs. I apprehend that this “*Third party*”, as Gales calls it, will do much to embarrass the glorious views of the Message.

Ritchie as usual you perceive has stepped off the wrong foot. It is the curse of our cause that the Banks have our Editors and Statesmen or their Brothers or sons in their debt, and the result is that their politics take the color of the corporation, that feed them. They are Camelions, that assume the complexion of the substance on which they repose. These worthies in Congress have struck their blow at the Message through me. They have lost at least as much in reputation, as I have in money, and as I have got the reputation

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and those who deprived me of the money have not got it, I think, I feel quite as well as they do. Talmadge and Rives will begin to feel their troubles most severely when mine are over. My greatest grief was to see my office-hands (men and women,) turned out of employment without knowing how they were to get their bread. It was a gloomy time at the Globe Office, but it will grow bright again. An honest cause manfully defended never yet failed. And your Administration is pregnant with proof, that no true man, proscribed for his principles ever failed to rise, and that no Traitors, ever triumph long. On the late occasion, as it was my own case I have dealt mildly with the assassins. It is thought it will make the retribution come more heavily from the hand of the people. Besides nobody could venture to apply the second section, but yourself, and so I have left the slow but sure justice of public opinion to overtake and destroy. At a proper time, I will not fail to fix the badge upon the culprits that the hangman may know them. Would you believe it, they made a pretext of the publication of your letters as a justification for my proscription. . . .